

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS,
BUILDING J
37-55 East Wister Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-213-J

HAER
PA
91-PHILA
716 J-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HAER
PA
51-PHILA,
716J-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS, BUILDING J

HAER No. PA-213-J

Location:

37-55 E. Wister Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

Present Owner:

Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation
48 East Penn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Present Occupant:

Vacant.

Significance:

This 1907 warehouse was part of Daniel F. Waters' early expansion.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

Date(s) of Erection:

Building J was erected c.1907.

Architect:

Unknown.

Original/Subsequent Owners:

See Chain of Title.

Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

Unknown.

Original Plans/Construction:

Building J is a one and two-story, brick warehouse complex that retains much of its original appearance. The building is comprised of four separate warehouse spaces. The first floors of these spaces have permanent partitions and are accessible to one another. The top floors of each section form one large, open warehouse.

Alterations/Additions:

There have been no major alterations.

B. Historical Context

Built c.1907, Building J was a component of Daniel F. Waters' expansion of the Germantown Dye Works just after the turn of the century. Used, principally, as a warehouse, with a small section for the handling of bleach, Building J was developed along with Building F, the dye house. The two buildings are linked by the elevator shaft in Building F.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

Architectural Character:

Building J is a vernacular early twentieth century industrial building similar to the rest of the dye works site.

Condition of Fabric:

Fair condition.

B. Description of Exterior

Overall Dimensions:

Building J's four subsections measure 32' x 46', 32' x 46', 70' x 30', and 40' x 90'; the structure is not freestanding, but could be considered as infill warehouse space.

Foundations:

Brick.

Walls:

Brick.

Structural System/Framing:

Load bearing brick masonry walls with internal wood framing in one section of Building J. I-beams are found on the second floor of another section.

Porches/Stoops/Balconies/Bulkheads:

Not applicable.

Chimneys:

Not applicable.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

Wooden cross-braced garage door on north elevation of Building J at entrance alley off of Collom Street. Second-story garage door at east end of Building J off of Lena Street. Ground floor garage door facing Lena Street.

Windows/Shutters:

Most windows are twelve-pane, aluminum, industrial-type sash. Others along Collom Street have glass block and older small-light sash reused as infill.

Roof:

Flat, asphalt roof with terra-cotta coping. One skylight in roof near cartway.

C. Description of Interior

Floor Plans:

The upper floor of Building J is an open warehouse space. The lower floor is divided into four large rooms: 30' x 70', 32' x 46', 32' x 46', and 40' x 90'.

Stairways:

The upper floor of Building J is accessible by using the stairway in Building K. There is a stairway located on the Lena Street side of the building.

Flooring:

First floor: concrete.
Second floor: wooden planking.

Wall/Ceiling Finishes:

Exposed brick walls, exposed ceilings.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

Replacement modern aluminum doors.

Windows:

Metal sash set into brick window openings.

Decorative Features and Trim:

Not applicable.

Hardware:

Modern locks, hinges, and handles.

Mechanical Equipment:

Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:

Steam radiators throughout.

Lighting:

Modern electrical fixtures.

Plumbing:

Not available.

D. Site

General Setting/Orientation:

Building J is situated east of Building F and north of Buildings I and K. It also has a facade on Lena Street and on the alley off of Collom Street.

Historic Landscape Design:

None.

Outbuildings:

None.